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Three Jan. Events Focus on Civil Rights from Darfur to St. Pete

(St. Petersburg, Fla.) January 12, 2010 – Three upcoming events at USF St. Petersburg will explore civil and human rights – from a discussion on the publications of the St. Petersburg-based Uhuru movement leader to a lecture on the status of human rights in Darfur. All events are free and open to the public.

January 21
6 p.m.
An Evening with Omali Yeshitela
Student Life Center (corner of 6th Ave. S and 2nd St.)
Contact: James Schnur, USFSP Librarian, (727) 873-4094

The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg hosts an evening of conversation with Uhuru Movement leader Omali Yeshitela to herald the recent acquisition of approximately 20 of Yeshitela’s publications as part of the library’s Special Collections and Archives.

Special Collections Librarian James Schnur will conduct an interview with Yeshitela that traces notable events in his life and work. Schnur will present a display of the collection, which includes recent publications as well as historic and out-of-print writings by the prolific political theorist. He will then take the stage with Yeshitela to share video clips and interview the controversial St. Petersburg native who has achieved international recognition.

January 26
7 p.m.
Darryl Van Leer presents “Fulfilling the Dream: From MLK to Barack Obama”
Student Life Center (corner of 6th Ave. S and 2nd St.)
Contact: La-Tarri Canty (727) 873-4845

This one-man show provides an in-depth look at the dreams and hopes of the society that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned. His vision is then compared to today’s progress of racial equality through the election of the first African-American president. This performance includes dramatizations of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” and “I See the Promise Land” speeches. The audience also relives the electrifying event at Grant Park with Barack Obama’s election night address, “The Change We Need.”

This event is sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg and the Office of Multicultural Affairs at USFSP.
January 28
2 p.m.
Genocide in Darfur: Taking a Stand for Justice with Professor Hamid E. Ali
Davis Hall, Room 104
Contact: Thomas Smith (727) 873-4583

Hamid E. Ali was born and raised in the Darfur region of Sudan. He is Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the American University in Cairo. He holds a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. Ali is chairman of the Darfur Working Group and is heavily involved in the reconciliation efforts in Darfur. As a scholar and an advocate he helps students to become more engaged with human rights issues around the world.

This lecture is sponsored by the Honors Program at USFSP.

-USF St. Petersburg-